

From: Jeff Beitzel
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

As a programmer and system administrator, the Microsoft judgement will impact me greatly. I have been working with both Microsoft and non-Microsoft products for over 5 years, and in that time I have seen a trend in the software being used. As a system administrator, the integration that Microsoft offers makes my administrative tasks easier. Setup, as well as maintenance, is easier in Microsoft products than in some of competitors, like Oracle, Sun, Netscape, and Linux. The time savings I gain make me more productive. As a programmer, Microsoft products show a tremendous amount of innovation not seen elsewhere. Microsoft has often been accused of breaking standards, but it should be noted that they typically embrace and extend. They take off where standards fall short, they allow the products I write to be better. To me, that innovation they provide is of utmost importance. Also, when doing web-development, Netscape is a horrendous product to work with. Microsoft didn't kill Netscape, Netscape committed suicide by refusing to improve its product and listen to its customers. On a more personal side, I am often recruited to help out non-computer literate friends and family, they need the ease of use, and pricing of Microsoft. Without Microsoft PCs would not be commonplace, but relegated to the hobbyists and professionals. Microsoft has made this a connected world because they have given us what we want.

This whole anti-trust situation that has me greatly troubled, as a consumer, person, and someone who creates. It is that the government has abandoned its duty to protect successful people and their property, and chosen to persecute them. The fact is Microsoft, by its own blood, sweat, and tears created its products, and by right has sole ability to decide what to do with its property. The government has proceeded on a witch hunt led by Microsoft's failed competitors under the guise of "protecting the consumer", the only people trying to be protected are lacking competitors who would rather pull success down than actually work for success. I resent the implication made by those arguing against Microsoft that I am a helpless victim incapable of making decisions for myself. I use Microsoft products because they are the best available to me. If Netscape, Oracle, or Linux met my needs I'd use them; but they don't. Microsoft is a company that should be commended for its success and supported by the government, not beaten down by it.

It is because of the above I say, "Leave Microsoft Alone." and do not place regulations or restrictions upon them. They are a company that has made my life better, not worse. The likes of Oracle, Sun, Netscape, Linux, and the other whiners would do well to take a lesson from Microsoft's playbook: Innovate, the consumer appreciates that. America

needs that.

Sincerely,
Jeff Beitzel (Concerned American and Consumer)

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